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Cuban Invasion Failed Because Those Most Involved Waited for Success

The reasons why the rebel invasion of Cuba failed have been hashed and re-hashed of late, with the Central Intelligence Agency of the United States taking most of the blame. Reasons offered have been faulty co-ordination, and poor timing.

But the main reason the recent invasion of Cuba failed is nothing so logistically complicated.

The invasion failed simply because the Cuban people failed to support it.

The Cuban people, a passionate and happy-go-lucky people, are pretty sophisticated about revolutions. After all, most adult Cubans of fighting age have been engaged in some form of revolutionary activity all of their lives. Absolute and partial dictators have existed violently in Cuba since the Spanish-American War. One strong man has replaced another, each making the same promises — and each failing to better the lot of the average Cuban.

Familiarity, in this instance, has bred caution. During the recent invasion attempt, the Cuban people apparently chose to wait and see if the new rebels were going to be as successful as the old ones.

It took only a few hours to find out: the new rebels failed miserably. Reports from Cuba make it apparent that the Cuban people on the homeland were pretty unimpressed. What part of them were not in Castro's militia simply seemed to yawn and sigh, and say, "Wait until the next time."

Another element enters into the Cuban people's attitude of indifference. After all, the rebels training in Florida furnished no glamorous figurehead, such as Fidel Castro was in his day as a rebel revolu-

tionary. The rebels instead were a weak coalition of turncoats, ex-Batista supporters, and potential strongmen.

This time the invasion was not led by a bearded warrior of almost legendary stature to the Cuban peasant. It was led instead by a junta of expatriate Cubans, led in turn by the CIA.

Whoever planned the recent Cuban invasion apparently counted heavily on the popular support of the Cuban people. This was a near-fatal mistake. It was a mistake which may prove to be irreparable.

The failure of the invasion will likely mean that any further invasion from outside the borders of Cuba will fail also.

The liberation of Cuba will come when the passionate, happy-go-lucky Cuban rises up from within his own homeland and overthrows the bearded legend.